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For Immediate Release

## GIRLS TO BE INTRODUCED TO ENGINEERING FEBRUARY 21

AIKEN, S.C., (February 20) – On Saturday, February 21, Savannah River Site engineers will continue to take small steps toward easing the approaching shortage of workers skilled in the engineering disciplines at the fourth annual “Introduce a Girl To Engineering Day.”

During this day-long event, to be held at USC-Aiken’s Ruth Patrick Science Center, approximately 50 girls from 24 middle schools in the CSRA will interact with SRS professionals, who will teach them more about careers in engineering.

“Unless they have a parent who is an engineer, girls this age are not likely to give much thought to ‘engineering’ as a career option,” says Susan Wood, former director of the Savannah River Site’s applied research and development laboratory and founding sponsor. “We want to give them a reason to add it to the careers they are considering.”

One of the reasons that so few females go into engineering is that they do not receive adequate math and science education in high school. That’s the reason for focusing on middle-school girls, Dr. Wood says. “If we catch their interest now, they will see a reason to sign up for the math and science courses they need in high school,” she says. “The more math and science they take, the broader their options.”

The day will include games to help girls discover where their interests lie, as well as interactive, hands-on activities to show them how their natural problem-solving abilities form the basis for many engineering skills.

(more)

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According to Barbara Smoak, Manager of WSRC Education Outreach Programs, the focus on female middle-school students is by design. “Our goal is to provide programs that will generate student interest in careers such as engineering that are critical to the success of SRS and local industries. We have a particular interest in providing this information to female students because traditionally, females are underrepresented in career fields that are science and technology oriented.”

“Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day” is an offshoot of National Engineers Week, which is being celebrated across the country – including SRS – Feb. 22-28. Last year about 36 girls from 19 middle schools participated in the event.

The CSRA Society of Women Engineers is helping to sponsor the local event, with support from Westinghouse Savannah River Company and its partners (Westinghouse Savannah River Company, Bechtel Savannah River Incorporated, BNFL Savannah River Corporation, BWXT Savannah River Company, CH2 Savannah River Company and Polestar Savannah River Company); USC Aiken - Ruth Patrick Science Education Center; Westinghouse Safety Management Solutions and CSRA – American Society for Engineering Management.

WSRC-04-11

**(NOTE: Agenda for the day is attached. Reporters are welcome to attend the event. Reporters wishing to attend should call the media contact listed above.)**

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#### THE WSRC TEAM

Westinghouse Savannah River Company LLC · Bechtel Savannah River, Inc. · BNFL Savannah River Corporation  
BWXT Savannah River Company · CH2 Savannah River Company · Polestar Savannah River Company

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### "Introduce a Girl to Engineering" Saturday, February 21, 2004 Ruth Patrick Science Education Center

8:30-9:00	Registration and Breakfast - <b>Solarium</b>	
9:00-9:20	Introduction and What is Engineering? - <b>Museum</b>	Dr. Susan Wood
9:20-9:40	Ice Breaker Bingo	Joette Sonnenberg
9:40-10:10	"Deal Me In" Blue and Red groups - <b>Archaeology Room</b> Green and Yellow groups - <b>Rm. 117</b>	Barbara Smoak Bonnie Toole
10:10-10:20	Break	
**10:20-10:40	Liquid Nitrogen Demonstration - <b>Museum</b>	Dirk Byrd
**10:40-11:40	Interactive Demonstration Session (Blue/Green and Yellow/Red will rotate at 11:10) Green/Blue group ( <b>Rm. 117</b> ) - <i>Remote Equipment/Mars</i>  Red/Yellow group ( <b>Gallery</b> ) - <i>Hovercraft</i>	Cassy Robinson/Mary Harris & Maggie Millings Bill Wabbersen/Ray Tran
11:40-12:20	Blue and Yellow Groups - <i>Planetarium Show</i> Green and Red Groups - Lunch in <b>Rm. 127</b>	
12:20-1:00	Green and Red Groups - <i>Planetarium Show</i> Blue and Yellow Groups - Lunch in <b>Rm. 127</b>	
**1:00-1:45	Blue and Yellow ( <b>Museum</b> ) - <i>So You Think You Can</i> Green and Red ( <b>Rm. 117</b> ) - <i>Building Contest</i>	P. K. Hightower Monica Mace/ Deb Moore-Shedrow
**1:45-2:30	Green and Red ( <b>Museum</b> ) - <i>So You Think You Can</i> Blue and Yellow ( <b>Rm. 117</b> ) - <i>Building Contest</i>	P. K. Hightower Monica Mace/ Deb Moore-Shedrow
**2:30-2:50	Blue and Red ( <b>Gallery</b> ) - <i>It's Alarming</i> Green and Yellow ( <b>Lunchroom</b> ) - <i>Edible Rocks</i>	P. K. Hightower Jill Brown
**2:50-3:10	Green and Yellow ( <b>Gallery</b> ) - <i>It's Alarming</i> Blue and Red ( <b>Lunchroom</b> ) - <i>Edible Rocks</i>	P. K. Hightower Jill Brown
3:10-3:40	Testing/ Awards/ Wrap Up in <b>Rm. 117</b> Closing Remarks	SRS Engineers Jaclyn Spear

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# NEWS from The Savannah River Site

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**\*\* Best opportunities for photos and interaction with participants.**

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